
Environmental Advisory Council
Tuesday, August 23, 2011

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was held on the above date for the transaction of general business.

Present –A. Molteni, R. Nieves, H. Rauenzahn

Also present – S. Katzenmoyer

CALL TO ORDER

Harriet Rauenzahn called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eugene Green, of the 400 block of Schuylkill Ave, described his rain barrel system and showed photos. He stated that the addition of a summer garden greatly increased his water usage and he sought a solution. He stated that the City requested a sketch of his project. He has two 55 gallon barrels in his rear yard which are linked and have overflow capability. He stated that he winterizes his system as necessary.

Mr. Nieves noted the need for regulation by best practices. He noted the need for overflow capabilities.

Mr. Molteni stated that laws are not needed.

Mr. Nieves stated that he is indifferent to the need for regulation but noted the need for uniformity. He noted the need to promote “green” efforts but that safety also needed to be taken into consideration.

Ms. Katzenmoyer described a potential situation of an apartment dweller placing a barrel on a roof and the problems that could be caused.

Mr. Nieves stated that he purchased his barrel and incurred additional costs for completing the system. He stated that this is a significant investment in order to have it operating properly. He noted the need not to over-regulate and not have an inspection and permit process.

Mr. Green stated that the EAC was welcome to view his system but requested that members call first.

Mr. Nieves stated that the City could issue a sticker of approval for barrels. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that this would lead to an inspection and fee.

Mr. Nieves noted the need for the barrels to be marked that the water is not drinkable.

Ms. Hoag arrived at this time.

SMART GROWTH ALLIANCE

Mr. Nieves stated that he attended the July meeting. He summarized the meeting and reviewed information distributed at the meeting. He stated that the current focus of the Alliance is the survey. He stated that Crystal Edwards has been named by the Mayor to represent the City.

RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

Ms. Hoag noted the need for the EAC to proceed in an intelligent and responsible manner. She stated that the committee has had scheduling problems and has not held a recent meeting.

Ms. Hoag stated that she has spoken with the City's Historic Preservation Specialist who is willing to work with residents in historic districts who wish to have rain barrels. She stated that barrels in the view of the public right of way must appear historic.

DAM INSPECTIONS

Ms. Hoag stated that after this afternoon's earthquake all dams located within the City have been inspected. She stated that there is no damage.

Mr. Molteni questioned the signs posted stating that the City's dams are an imminent danger. Ms. Hoag explained that these signs are part of the City's disaster plan in case of water emergencies. She stated that the signs are required by DEP.

EAC SUMMIT PLANNING

It was suggested that the next meeting be held in the fall since many participants

are teachers.

MEETINGS WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS

Ms. Rauenzahn questioned if any member had attended community group meetings.

Ms. Hoag noted that many groups do not meet during the summer months.

Ms. Rauenzahn requested that Ms. Katzenmoyer send the list of community group meetings to members via email.

BERNHART PARK UPDATE

Ms. Hoag reported that there are four areas which need to be remediated. She stated that grills, tables, and benches have been added as areas are restored. She stated that the trail work and retaining wall work have begun.

Ms. Hoag stated that the northern area of the park is complete and the grass is beginning to grow. She stated that Exide has agreed to add a split rail fence around the parking area. The damaged trees have been removed.

Mr. Nieves questioned if the park is open to the public. Ms. Hoag stated that the grass needs to have more time.

Ms. Hoag stated that she has been impressed with the work of the contractors.

Mr. Nieves questioned if the air monitoring continued. Ms. Hoag stated that additional monitors have been installed for construction purposes. She stated that there has been one spike to date but that a cause could not be determined. She stated that the monitors will remain on Exide's stacks.

Ms. Hoag stated that the contractors may work this Saturday in preparation for the impending hurricane. She stated that the contractors hope that work will be complete the week after Labor Day. She noted her hope that the park remains closed until the grand opening.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Mr. Molteni noted his concern with the Commission's continued removal of trees. Ms. Hoag suggested that he contact Mr. Zeiber to discuss this issue.

GREENWAYS AND TRAILS SUMMIT

Mr. Molteni stated that the Mayor's office gave him information on this summit. He stated that he was also told that member's costs would be reimbursed. He stated that the summit will be held September 11 – 13 in York PA.

Ms. Rauenzahn suggested that the information be emailed to members.

350.ORG

Ms. Rauenzahn stated that this organization is involved in climate change. She stated that there are currently protests in Washington DC regarding the Canadian pipeline. She stated that she is organizing an event for September 24.

BCTV

Katie O'Brien from the Conservation District will be the guest for the August show.

EAC AND GREEN SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she and Ms. Rauenzahn participated in a conference call facilitated by the PA Environmental Council regarding work of EACs with their local school districts. She stated that the calls will be held quarterly with the hope that more PA school districts will become more environmentally active.

BANDSHELL CONCERTS

Mr. Molteni stated that the group who organized Earth Day also organized Friday night concert events at the Bandshell.

Ms. Katzenmoyer noted the concern of City Council regarding alcohol at these events. Mr. Molteni stated that there were no problems.

Mr. Molteni stated that approximately 300 people attended the first event. He stated that the event may expand from four evenings to six.

ENERGY FEST

Energy Fest will be held in Kempton September 16 – 18. The EAC can have a table at the event for a \$100 registration fee.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, September 27 at 5:30 pm in the Council Office.

Respectfully submitted by
Shelly Katzenmoyer
Deputy City Clerk